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## TURNING OF TIDE TOWARD TAFT COMES ABOUT GRADUALLY

Wilson's Campaign Is Woefully Mismanaged and Dis-sension Is Rife

By E. N. SMITH.

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—That there is a slow turning of the tide in favor of Mr. Taft's re-election as President cannot be doubted. The movement is gradual, and at times almost imperceptible, but it is apparently none the less sure. Little by little the sentiment of the people seems to be swinging back from a desire to support a Democrat or go off after the Bull Moose propaganda.

Whether this reverse turn of the pendulum will be sufficient to elect Mr. Taft in November remains to be demonstrated. It is an uphill fight, but the Regular Republicans have the organization and party machinery. These will be utilized to the utmost limit. In addition, Mr. Taft has the prestige of a fairly good administration and a continuation of prosperity during his incumbency.

Governor Wilson's chances of sweeping the country seemed to reach high tide with his nomination at Baltimore. Since that time there has been a gradual slumping. The Governor's past utterances are being used against him with telling effect. He is being punctured in all of his speeches from the platform during his whirlwind tours throughout the country.

The management of Governor Wilson's campaign has been the worst ever witnessed in any political party. Nothing but discord and dissension has thus far prevailed. All the various bureaus are working at cross purposes. The net result has been to create all feeling and cause the better classes of advisors to keep out of the controversy. As the days pass the evil results of this absence of unanimity and harmony will become more harmful and manifest.

Col. Roosevelt has accomplished nothing by his stumping journey through the West. He has been received, as always, by enormous crowds, but his addresses have been rambling and scattering. They have not brought such a conviction to the hearers as will produce votes at the polls.

The situation in New York State has been a cause of worry to all three of the contesting parties. It is already self-evident that if it were not for the fact that Oscar Straus, nominated by the Bull Mooseers, belongs to the same faction as Roosevelt, he would be elected Governor by a good, strong vote. Even some of the great metropolitan daily newspapers would greatly like to support Mr. Straus were it not for the fact that in so doing they would aid Roosevelt.

Taft's Troubles in Ohio. More troubles for the Taft Administration in Ohio are forecast by reports from Cincinnati that the administration is likely to be compelled to prosecute some of its influential friends in Cincinnati for alleged violation of the national banking laws, resulting in the recent troubles and reorganization of the Second National Bank of that city.

George B. Cox and his political and financial associates were involved in the troubles of the bank, whose capital was wiped out by reason of loans to concerns that were operating prison labor contracts. A big chair-making concern controlled by Cox, was the principal creditor whose paper was carried in large amounts by the bank. This company was making chairs with prison labor, and became involved so that it could not meet its obligations promptly, resulting in embarrassment to the bank. The Cincinnati clearing house came to the rescue of the institution. It was found that the capital had been wiped out. Strong people connected with the bank replaced the capital, the bank was reorganized, and is now perfectly sound. It was never closed at all.

The latest development in the affair is that the agents of the Department of Justice, who were set at work to determine whether there was justification for a criminal prosecution, are said to have made a sensational report to the department, covering

the facts about the prison labor concern and its relations with Ohio politics and the trouble with the bank, which may compel prosecutions of prominent people. The Cincinnati advances add that the people who are menaced with prosecution are friends and supporters of the Administration. Cincinnati regards the developments as likely to prove most unfortunate to the administration.

Cox Deeply Involved. A Federal official explained the affair, and admitted the Department of Justice's criminal investigators had been at work on the case. He did not know what they had reported, or whether, in fact, the report had yet been received. The facts concerning the bank's troubles, resulting from loans to the Cox-convict labor manufacturing company, were confirmed, however.

Cox's big interest in convict labor employment has long been known and has been the subject of much agitation in Ohio. It has been charged that his political pull as boss of Cincinnati enabled him to secure commissions that were expected to be of great value.

George Cox has been supporting Taft in the present campaign, and supported him in the contest for the Ohio delegates at the national convention. Ohio is in a frightful condition politically, with Taft commonly regarded as certain to lose it. If, in this juncture, the Administration should be compelled to turn upon the Cincinnati boss, and his associates, and start a series of prosecutions, the situation would be a good deal worse. To prosecute would presumably mean to drive away the Cox crowd of supporters; not to prosecute would give grave offense to many people in Ohio who know enough about the facts to be convinced that such a move ought to be made.

### THRIFT OF THE SWISS

The Swiss Government has just published the results of an inquiry it has been making into the savings of the Swiss people, and the means of thrift at their disposal.

It applied direct to the savings banks to supply the information required. Seven banks out of a total of 1054 refused to comply with the Government's request, but the other 1047 all sent in full particulars of their work.

Everywhere it is apparent that thrift is very much on the increase. For instance, in ten years from 1897 to 1908 the average sum in savings banks per head of the Swiss population rose from 309 to 448 francs. In other words, Switzerland, from the savings bank standard, is the thriftiest nation.

Next to her comes Denmark, with 391 francs saved per head of population, and then, a long way behind, the German empire with 291 (Prussia 308, Bavaria 299, Saxony 285, and Wurttemberg 231), Norway 270, the United States 220, Austria 211, Sweden 197, Hungary 159, France 133, Belgium 129, Great Britain 122, Italy 108, the Netherlands 89, and Russia 20.

Of course, it must always be remembered how many forms of saving exist; and it is doubtful whether life insurance, for instance, is as common in Switzerland as in England. Switzerland as yet has no Postoffice savings bank, and no penny savings bank, although thirty-nine of her savings banks will open an account for a sum of one franc or less, while only three require 10 francs or more as a deposit.

The Swiss Government is naturally exceedingly anxious to promote thrift in every possible way, and to do this end nothing is considered better than the often discussed plan of the introduction of Postoffice savings banks on the British system. At the end of 1908, the year in question, the sums lying in savings banks to the credit of Swiss subjects amounted to nearly 6,500,000 francs, as compared with not quite 40,000,000 francs in 1897.—London Post.

### GETTING BACK AT HIM.

"Good old Muley," said an admirer familiarly to the new Sultan of Morocco. "Muley Youssef!" retorted the indignant monarch.

## CUB REPORTER INTERVIEWS A MEMBER OF THE 'PROFESSION'

Artist at a Local Theater Tells History of His Life for Publication

By the Cub Reporter.

The cub reporter was sent out the other day to interview a member of the profession now playing at one of the local theaters with the object of getting a little of his life history. The cub located his man, got the interview, and wrote it up just as the actor dictated it to him. His copy read something like this:

"Yes, I have been in the profession for a good many years. You see, acting sort of came natural to me as all my family were actors. Father and mother were both on the stage, also a sister and my brother Ernest. Ernest had a good job in a Dime Museum; he was a regular human ostrich; and would eat anything from a tin can to a corrugated iron roof. I will never forget a little incident that happened just before he got the job. Mother had been down town one day doing a little shopping and she brought home some of those big pearl buttons. She put the buttons on the parlor table and went in to take her hat off. While she was gone, Ernest came in, saw the buttons and ate every one of them. Mother came back, noticed the buttons gone and asked him where they were. He told her that he had eaten them, but that he had only done it in fun; but mother knew the buttons were in earnest."

"A little after this I got a job with an Uncle Tom's Cabin show. I didn't have much to do at first but to play the part of a cake of ice and outside shouts. Then the man who played the part of the blood-hound left, and the manager gave me his job. It was a cinch; too, all I had to do was to dress up in a big dog skin and one of the stage hands would lead me around in the parade. But the manager got pretty sore once when one of these jay constables made him pay a fine of two bones for me. Believe me, 'was the regular hound' dog. It was easy money, but it was such a skin game that I was ashamed to take the money."

"We used to have a lot of fun with the dame who played the part of 'Little Eva.' She said she was only sixteen, but we all knew that she had been a member of the original Black Crook company, and that she had a daughter in school then. Well, one night she had a row with the boss over her wages, and she said that she wouldn't 'go to heaven' until she got what was coming to her. The boss got pretty sore and told her that if she ever got what was coming to her that she would never go to heaven."

Where the Sucker Was. "After about two years I quit the show business for a while and sold vacuum cleaners. You know what a vacuum cleaner is, don't you? Well, a vacuum cleaner is a piece of hose with a sucker on one end. I sold one to a Jew clothing dealer for three hundred dollars; that time the sucker was on the other end. He put it out in front of his store to draw in trade."

"The salesman business didn't appeal so very strong so I went back on the boards with another fellow and we framed up a brother act. We were stopping in a small town one night at the same hotel where a stranded Dime Museum bunch was hanging out. That night a fire broke out in the hotel and the way that crowd acted up was a fright. At the time the fire started, Jo-Jo, the dog-faced boy, was down in the dining room eating a charlotte russe. He heard the noise and got so excited that he ran upstairs to the head porter and asked him to save his life. The head porter thought he had been dronhobia and shot him. Major Small, the midget, ran out into the hall, mistook a rat trap for the elevator and crawled in. They had to guard him all night to keep the cat lying in savings banks to the credit of Swiss subjects amounted to nearly 6,500,000 francs, as compared with not quite 40,000,000 francs in 1897.—London Post.

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are bulging. But it was only the fat lady trying to back out of a window on the third floor.

"About a year later I went out with a fellow who had a glassy diving act framed up. He was the best diver I ever saw. You could throw a five dollar gold piece into the water and he would dive after it and bring up the change. He got married shortly after we started, and the wife he picked out was old enough to be his mother-in-law. She was forty years old and I asked him time and again why he didn't take her to Salt Lake City and get two twenties for her. The way she walloped him around was fierce. He always wanted to get a divorce, but she wouldn't have it. But the poor fellow finally got it. It was like this: One day he was going to dive down at New York and was to come up at Liverpool, England. He dove, all right, but he lost his bearings and came up at Reno. He got his divorce, and his wife felt so small at the way she had treated him that she fell through a hole in the sidewalk one day and hung herself."

"Yes, I have been in the profession for a good many years. I suppose I will stick to the act I have now for a long time. You see, acting sort of came natural to me as all of my family were actors."

### WITH THE TRADERS UP AT HUDSON BAY

The Factor, enacts the prelude to a dramatic play that proceeds almost without words. To each of the hunters he hands a plug of cheap, black tobacco and a package of sulphur matches—all a gift from the great trading company. Immediately pipes are filled with the stick tobacco cut from the plug. Nothing is said while the pipe of welcome is smoked. It is a very serious matter, the smoking of a pipeful of this tobacco. It requires constant attention and the entire bundle of matches. Finally the chief knocks his pipe free from ashes and puts it carefully away. Then he cuts the caribou thongs from one of the bark-covered bales, and spreads upon the counter a pile of raw furs—his own personal hunt, made since New-Year's Day. The Factor begins at the top of the chief's pile and first counts two hundred and fifty muskrats. He thrusts his hand in each pelt, judges of the value, and gives the amount to the bookkeeper, who sits close by. Each pelt in the catch is examined carefully and passed to the outpost Factor, who piles them on the counter.

You watch the hunter and the company's agent. No word passes between them. The cunning chief watches the Factor as a lynx would a rabbit. His sharp, bead-like eyes do not miss a movement. He follows every motion of the sensitive fingers, trained after many years practice, to perfect and fair judgment of a pelt. The hunter hears him say, although he does not understand a word, as he moves his hand over a glossy pelt.

"One fine otter, usual high price, twenty-five."  
"One mink, three; one mink, five; another fine otter, same high price."  
And so he continues, until finally you hear the chief's spring catch amounts to two hundred and fifty dollars. The Factor touches the Indian on the shoulder and tells him it is a fine hunt.

The chief then, as is befitting his station, trades in the pelts of all who made the hunt with him. He places on the counter a small pile of skins, his daughter's hunt—thirty muskrats—for which she receives a credit of about seven dollars. Then there follows and exceptionally good hunt of an Indian who has been blacklisted because, as the bookkeeper says, his debt is of three years' standing and amounts to six hundred dollars. But the magnificent lot of fur that is prized by a fine silver fox, the prize catch of all hunters, has brought his indebtedness to only twelve dollars. And in such a manner the hunt of the tribe is traded to the great company.—Frank E. Schooner, in Harper's Magazine for October.

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## JAPANESE COMMENT ON UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY

In the second article of Mr. Shi-mada's series in the Tokio Mainichi, American diplomacy is discussed as follows:

"The American newspapers are superior to the English in their resourcefulness in news and promptitude in reports, but inferior to the English in dignity of tone and accuracy. When all trace of Livingston was lost in the course of his exploration in central Africa it was the New York Herald which dispatched Stanley to search him out, which created a world-wide sensation. But it was the London Times which astonished the world by pointing the first and the accurate error of the secret proceedings over which public curiosity had waxed intense."

"A somewhat similar verdict may be pronounced with regard to the two countries' foreign diplomacies. To cite a recent instance—the Anglo-American general arbitration treaty. It was originally proposed by the United States and responded to by Great Britain, but it ended in failure because of the antagonism of Congress. Had such a thing occurred in any European state it would have constituted a serious matter necessitating a change of ministries. For President Taft cannot escape the charge of lack of foresight as regards the probable attitude of Congress towards the question. It is probable that no European diplomat would have committed such an error. The American proposal for the neutralization of the Manchurian railways is another of the illustrations in point. That American diplomats should not have foreseen the attitude Russia and Japan would take is really remarkable."

"Congress is far worse than the American government in this respect. Besides the reasons already stated, there is another which makes American diplomacy what it is. This is the general tendency of Congress to pander to the people, and to be easily influenced by the opinions of the inexperienced public."

Congress shows most puerile traits in the eyes of outsiders. There are of course some men who combine great experience with great political capacity. Mr. Root being surely one of such, but on the whole Congress seems to consider its duty and pride to act in obedience to the voice of the world outside."

"It is true that American citizens wax earnest over the elections of governors, presidents and others, but they strain so hard after economic laurels that they have little time to study political questions. Most of them depend entirely upon journalistic reports for their judgment of political issues, with the consequence that they are very short-sighted and can hardly see things in a light other than of their immediate interests. Immigrants to the states when naturalized possess votes, but most of them are very clumsy in the employment of the political power they are permitted to wield. The youthful ardor of the American spirit must be thanked for phenomenal achievements in economic enterprise, but this same quality is responsible for the careless, unskilled manner in which American diplomacy and politics are treated."

Mr. Shimada then proceeds to refer to the Panama tolls problem and says that here is another illustration of the point at issue. Although the ultimate fate of the bill is not yet known, the writer makes no doubt

that the trouble will be smoothed out in view of the fact that the majority of intelligent people do not approve of the attitude of the senate and that a man like Mr. Root acknowledges the immorality of the bill. Mr. Shimada, after praising the American's characteristic attributes—his energy, his business talent, his democratic ideas, etc.—in the warmest terms, concludes by saying that his weaknesses in politics and diplomacy are in part the result of the powerful influence exercised by the non-political plutocrats over the American political world.

### AERONAUT CUTS LOOSE FROM BLAZING BALLOON

Frank Armstrong Has Thrilling Experience at Ohio Fair

TOLEDO, O., Sept. 12.—Hundreds of terrified spectators on the county fair grounds today breathlessly watched the desperate fight against death made by Frank Armstrong, an aeronaut, when he was carried 200 feet in the air by a blazing balloon. Armstrong, whose home is in Chelms, O., was preparing to make an ascension, and was straightening out his parachute rigging when the balloon caught fire and his startled helpers let go.

Fighting like a madman to release his parachute, the aeronaut was carried up in a tangle of ropes. He succeeded in cutting loose a moment before the flames reached the parachute, and the blazing balloon collapsed. Armstrong made a successful drop, landing heads the race track.

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